

Status of the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application.

1-26 (canceled)

27. (new) A prism having an axis of symmetry, comprising:
a non-planar first portion that is symmetrical about the axis of symmetry;
a non-planar or a substantially planar second portion coupled at an angle with respect to the non-planar first portion; and
a cylindrical opening running from the first portion to the second portion along the axis of symmetry.

28. (new) The prism of claim 27, wherein the first portion comprises a conical shape.

29. (new) The prism of claim 27, wherein the first portion comprises an outside surface comprising:
a machined layer; and
a coating layer substantially covering the machined layer.

30. (new) The prism of claim 29, wherein the coating layer comprises a protective coating.

31. (new) The prism of claim 29, wherein the machined layer comprises an optical quality finish.

32. (new) The prism of claim 29, wherein the coating layer comprises a high quality optical finish.

33. (new) The prism of claim 29, wherein a refractive index of the coating layer substantially matches a refractive index of the prism.

34. (new) The prism of claim 27, wherein the prism comprises at least one of acrylic, glass, or plastic.

35. (new) The prism of claim 27, wherein the prism comprises colored material or clear material.

36. (new) The prism of claim 27, wherein the first portion comprises a curved shape.

37. (new) The prism of claim 27, further comprising:
a cylindrical extension that extends from a location adjacent the an end of the cylindrical opening of the first portion along the axis of symmetry.

38. (new) The prism of claim 27, wherein the cylindrical opening includes a chamfered edge.

39. (new) The prism of claim 27, wherein:
the first portion comprises an input face configured to receive an illumination light and a platen face configured to receive a print pattern; and
the second portion comprises an exit face.

40. (new) The prism of claim 39, wherein a surface area of the platen face is larger than a surface area of the exit face.

41. (new) A prism having an axis of symmetry, comprising:
a non-planar first portion that is symmetrical about the axis of symmetry, the non-planar first portion having an outside surface, comprising,
a machined layer, and
a coating layer substantially covering the machined layer;
and
a non-planar or a substantially planar second portion coupled at an angle with respect to the non-planar first portion.
42. (new) The prism of claim 41, further comprising:
a cylindrical opening running from the first portion to the second portion along the axis of symmetry.
43. (new) The prism of claim 41, wherein the coating layer comprises a protective coating.
44. (new) The prism of claim 41, wherein the machined layer comprises an optical quality finish.
45. (new) The prism of claim 41, wherein the coating layer comprises a high quality optical finish.
46. (new) The prism of claim 41, wherein a refractive index of the coating layer substantially matches a refractive index of the prism.
47. (new) The prism of claim 41, further comprising:
a cylindrical extension that extends from the first portion along the axis of symmetry.

48. (new) An apparatus, comprising
an optical element that is symmetrical about an axis of symmetry, the
optical element including:
a substantially planar top portion;
a substantially planar bottom portion, which is substantially
parallel to the top portion;
a substantially conical body portion located adjacent the top
portion and adjacent the bottom portion; and
a cylindrical extension having first and second ends, the second
end being adjacent the top portion and extending from the top portion,
wherein the top, bottom, and body portions of the optical element are
symmetrical about the axis of symmetry,
wherein the top and bottom portions of the optical element have a central,
circular opening therein,
wherein the body portion of the optical element has a cavity including a
cylindrical region and a conical region,
wherein an axis of symmetry of the cylindrical region is along the axis of
symmetry of the optical element,
wherein an axis of symmetry of the conical region is along the axis of
symmetry of the optical element,
wherein the cylindrical region is adjacent the central, circular opening of
the top portion of the optical element and the the conical region,
wherein the second end of the conical region is adjacent the central,
circular opening of the bottom portion of the optical element, and
wherein the first end of the cylindrical extension is adjacent the central,
circular opening of the top portion of the optical element.